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Merriam, University of California; secretary, Dr. E. S. Riggs, Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Ill.

*The American Society of Biological Chemists.*—December 28–30. President, Professor Otto Folin, Harvard Medical School; secretary, Professor William J. Gies, 437 West 59th St., New York City.

*The American Physiological Society.*—December 28–30. President, Professor W. H. Howell, Johns Hopkins University; secretary, Dr. Reid Hunt, Hygienic Laboratory, 25th and E Sts., N. W., Washington, D. C.

*The Association of American Anatomists.*—December 28–30. President, Professor J. Playfair McMurrich, University of Toronto; secretary, Professor G. Carl Huber, 1330 Hill St., Ann Arbor, Mich.

*The Society of American Bacteriologists.*—December 28–30. President, Dr. J. J. Kinyoun, Washington, D. C.; secretary, Dr. Norman MacL. Harris, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

*The American Society of Zoologists.*—Eastern Branch, December 28–30. President, Professor Herbert S. Jennings, Johns Hopkins University; secretary, Dr. Lorande Loss Woodruff, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

*The Entomological Society of America.*—December 29, 30. Secretary, J. Chester Bradley, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

*The Association of Economic Entomologists.*—December 28, 29. President, Professor W. E. Britton, Connecticut Agricultural College; secretary, A. F. Burgess, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

*The Botanical Society of America.*—December 28–31. President, Professor Roland Thaxter, Harvard University; secretary, Professor D. S. Johnson, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

*American Nature Study Society.*—January 1. President, Professor C. F. Hodge, Clark University; secretary, Professor M. A. Bigelow, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City.

*Sullivant Moss Society.*—December 30. President, Professor Bruce Fink, Miami University, Oxford, O.; secretary, Mrs. Annie Morrill Smith, 78 Orange St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

*Wild Flower Preservation Society.*—President, Professor Chas. E. Bessey; secretary, Dr. Charles Louis Pollard, New Brighton, N. Y.

*The American Psychological Association.*—December 29–31. President, Professor Charles H. Judd, University of Chicago; secretary, Professor

A. H. Pierce, Smith College, Northampton, Mass.

*The American Anthropological Association.*—December 27–January 1. President, Dr. W. H. Holmes, Bureau of Ethnology; secretary, Dr. Geo. Grant MacCurdy, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

*The American Folk-lore Society.*—Week of December 30. President, Dr. John R. Swanton, Bureau of American Ethnology; acting secretary, Dr. R. B. Dixon, Peabody Museum, Cambridge, Mass.

*Association of Mathematical Teachers in New England.*—December 28. President, Charles A. Hobbs, Watertown, Mass.; secretary, George W. Evans, Charlestown High School, Boston, Mass.

*Physics Teachers of Washington, D. C.*—Meets in conjunction with American Federation of Teachers. President, W. A. Hedrick, McKinley High School, Washington, D. C.; secretary, Dr. Howard L. Hodgkins, George Washington University, Washington, D. C.

*American Phytopathological Society.*—December 28–30. President, Dr. L. R. Jones, University of Vermont; secretary, Dr. C. L. Shear, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

*American Alpine Club.*—December 30. Secretary, Dr. Henry G. Bryant, Room 806 Land Title Building, Philadelphia, Pa.

*American Breeders' Association.*—Meeting of Eugenics Committee. Secretary, Dr. Chas. B. Davenport, Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

THE Philosophical Society of Washington held on December 4 a meeting commemorative of the life and services of Professor Simon Newcomb, late president of the society. The program included addresses by the Honorable James Bryce, Dr. Milton Updegraff, Dr. R. S. Woodward, Dr. L. O. Howard and Dr. E. M. Gallaudet.

PROFESSOR EDWARD C. PICKERING, director of the Harvard College Observatory, has been elected a vice-president of the American Philosophical Society, to fill the unexpired term of the late Professor Simon Newcomb.

MR. JOHN FITZ, of Bethlehem, Pa., has been elected an honorary vice-president of the Iron and Steel Institute of Great Britain, under the new by-laws, which permit the election of distinguished foreign members as honorary vice-presidents.

DR. CLEMENS VON PIRQUET, Johns Hopkins University, has been awarded the Goldberger Prize of 2,000 crowns by the Imperial and Royal Society of Physicians of Vienna on account of his discoveries of certain phases of immunity and skin reaction in the diagnosis of infantile tuberculous lesions.

PROFESSOR W. BATESON, F.R.S., has resigned the chair of biology in the University of Cambridge to accept the directorship of the John Innes Horticultural Institution at Merton, Surrey.

DR. R. O. E. DAVIS, formerly associate professor of general chemistry in the University of North Carolina, is now soil physicist in the U. S. Bureau of Soils.

DR. F. R. WHITE, assistant to Mr. David Barrows, director of education in the Philippine Islands, has been appointed to this position as successor to Mr. Barrows.

PROFESSOR M. J. M. HILL, F.R.S., vice-chancellor of the University of London and professor of mathematics, has been elected an honorary fellow of Peterhouse, Cambridge, of which he was formerly a fellow.

MISS E. M. BRESEE, of Madison, who graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1908 after specializing in chemistry, has been appointed assistant chemist in the department of feed and fertilizer inspection in the College of Agriculture, to succeed Mr. W. A. Brannon, who resigned to accept appointment as assistant chemist to the State Dairy and Food Commission.

CAPTAIN SCOTT, the head of the proposed British Antarctic expedition, has received a letter from Major Darwin, president of the Royal Geographical Society, stating that the council of the society heartily approves of the expedition and will contribute £500 towards the sum needed. The president and council of the Royal Society have also intimated that they will be happy to subscribe £250 from their private funds towards the scientific objects of the expedition.

THE Livingstone gold medal of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society has been presented to Sir Ernest Shackleton, in recognition of his work in the Antarctic.

WE learn from *Nature* that the Royal Society of Edinburgh has presented the Macdougall-Brisbane prize for the biennial period 1906-8 to Mr. D. T. Gwynne-Vaughan for his papers (1) "On the Fossil Osmundaceæ," and (2) "On the Origin of the Adaxially Curved Leaf-trace in the Filicales"; and the Gunning Victoria Jubilee prize for the third quadrennial period 1904-8 to Professor G. Chrystal, for "A Series of Papers on 'Seiches,' including 'The Hydrodynamical Theory and Experimental Investigations of the Seiche Phenomena of Certain Scottish Lakes.'"

LIEUT.-COLONEL D. PRAIN, F.R.S., director of the Kew Botanic Gardens, and Dr. F. O. Bower, F.R.S., professor of botany at Glasgow, have been elected corresponding members of the Munich Academy of Sciences.

MR. A. D. E. ELMER is about to return to Manila with a large collection of plants that he has made in the southern part of Mindanao, from Davao as a base. The botany of this region is entirely unexplored, and something of its richness is indicated by the fact that only two species of oak have been reported from that region while Mr. Elmer finds at least fourteen.

PROFESSOR C. J. BOURNE delivered the Herbert Spencer lecture at Oxford on December 2. The subject was "Herbert Spencer and Animal Evolution."

By the death of Mr. John Masterson, of New York, at the age of ninety-seven years, a gift takes effect of \$4,000,000 which was made in 1902 to provide for poor persons during convalescence.

THE public library and museum at Kilmarnock, Scotland, was destroyed by fire on November 26. The building, known as the Dick Institute, was presented to the town by the late Mr. James Dick, of Glasgow, about nine years ago. The museum contained the geological collection of the late Mr. James Thomson, and a considerable portion of the Braidwood collection of curios which belonged to the late Dr. Hunter Selkirk, of Braidwood. These were completely destroyed. The damage will probably amount to about £50,000.

THE Chemists' Club of New York has inaugurated a plan for bringing together the professors of chemistry of the various universities with their former students at the smokers of the club. Saturday evening, November 27, was designated as Harvard Night, to which the professors of that university and the members of the New York Harvard Club were invited as guests. Professors Richards, Torrey and Baxter outlined the lines of investigation being conducted in their respective departments. It is hoped that in future meetings the chemists of New York will have opportunities for coming into contact with the work of the various other colleges in a similar fashion. The finance committee was able to announce subscriptions amounting to upwards of \$200,000 to the Chemists' Building Company.

THE ninth annual meeting of the American Philosophical Association will be held at Yale University, New Haven, Conn., on December 27, 28 and 29. The subject selected for discussion is: The problem of time in its relation to present tendencies in philosophy. Stop-over at New Haven will be allowed to persons holding tickets reading *via* that point to Boston to attend the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Psychological Association. Tickets must be deposited at station office at New Haven not later than December 29, and must be withdrawn from deposit in time to reach Boston not later than December 30.

THE Sullivant Moss Society will meet in affiliation with the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Boston on Thursday, December 30, at 2.30 P.M. in the hall of the Boston Natural History Society, Berkeley Street. An informal meeting will be held during the morning hours to view exhibits and make acquaintance. The program meeting in the afternoon is open to all and will be followed by a general discussion. For further particulars address Mrs. Annie Morrill Smith, 78 Orange Street, Brooklyn, New York, in whose care all manuscripts, etc., should be sent. Titles and abstracts of papers

should be sent in at once to secure place on the program.

THE *Standard* for November 22, says *Nature*, contains a full list of the House of Lords, classified according to their qualifications. There are only two names—those of Baron Rayleigh and Baron Lister—under the heading "Scientists," while "Educationists" are only represented by Baron Ashcombe, member of council of Selwyn College; Baron Killanin, member of senate of Royal University of Ireland, and the Earl of Stamford, formerly professor of classics and philosophy at Codrington College, Barbados. There are thirty-five railway directors, thirty-five bankers and thirty-nine so-called "captains of industry" on the list, and a column and a half under "Military and Naval Services."

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE Duke family have made a further gift of \$500,000 to Trinity College, Durham, N. C., for the establishment of a medical department.

MRS. HELEN HARTLEY JENKINS has given a considerable sum to endow a fund at Teachers College, Columbia University, providing for a department to instruct trained nurses, who are expected to give instruction on the care of the sick, sanitation, etc.

ACCORDING to figures available in the office of the auditor, the University of Chicago holds investments representing permanent endowment that aggregate \$14,870,903.01. In addition, its buildings and grounds devoted entirely to university use represent \$8,917,708.10; equipment, scientific apparatus, furniture, etc., being put at \$1,916,314.49 additional. These figures do not include the funds destined for the erection of the Harper Memorial Library, estimated in round figures to cost \$900,000, on which work will probably begin next year, nor the cost of the classical building, the construction of which is in contemplation, and on which about \$250,000 will be expended.

THE University of Brussels has received gifts amounting to \$1,300,000.

EMERITUS PROFESSOR THOMAS PURDIE has offered to the University of St. Andrews the